

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LARRY SHEHADEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey on the occasion of being granted an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Humane Letters from California State University, Fresno. Mr. Shehadey received the degree during graduation ceremonies on May 25, 2002.

Shehadey, a prominent Fresno businessman, and patriarch of Producers Dairy Foods, a well-known and respected Fresno-based business, is well known for his generosity and contributions to the community. The eight-story clock tower of the new Fresno State athletic facility will be named "The Larry A. Shehadey Clock Tower," and the Grand Lobby at the Southeast entrance will be named after Shehadey's late wife, Elayne.

In 1949, Shehadey sold a successful soap business to Safeway Supermarkets and bought a major interest in Producers Dairy Foods. Larry built the company into one of the largest independent family owned milk producers in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Shehadey for his honorary degree bestowed by California State University, Fresno. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Shehadey for his support of the Fresno community, and wishing him many more years of continued success.

KATIE WEST: A COWGIRL'S
PORTRAIT OF THE OLD WEST

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to artist and cowgirl Katie West for her work portraying the Old West and for her passion for living the cowgirl lifestyle on the Rocking KT Ranch with her quarter horses and collie dogs. Katie has always strived for perfection and is considered one of the finest pen-and-ink artists in the nation.

Besides her pen-and-ink drawings, Katie has earned a worldwide reputation for her oils on canvas, watercolors and her own unique process called petrography, which is fine line engraving in granite, crystal and solid jade. Her technique allows her to hold more detail in granite than anyone in the world. Katie's depictions of animals, particularly horses, and the Old West has brought her wide acclaim. In fact, others have proclaimed her work to be in form and quality a worthy heir to the great western artistry of Charles Russell, Frederick Remington and Frank Tenney Johnson. In addition, Katie has been nominated to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Her oil paintings, including "The American Cowboy," "Forever Eternal Red, White and Blue," "God Bless the U.S.A.," and a painting of a real cowboy on the range called "Born in the U.S.A.," evoke strong emotions and recall a simpler time when the lines between good and evil seemed as clearly defined as the difference between a white hat and a black one. Her petriograph engravings also are stirring, including "Comanche," and studies of Clayton Moore as "The Lone Ranger," John Wayne, Gene Autry and Gary Cooper.

Katie also has been a featured artist at a wide-range of art shows and other events across the nation. She has appeared on local and national television shows and her work has been illustrated in magazines from coast to coast. Her art, music and writing have spread joy and happiness to fans young and old all over the world. Collectors of Katie's work include such luminaries and fans of the western tradition as Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, jockeys Bill Shoemaker and Gary Stevens, singer Pat Boone and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the United States Congress for the artistry of Katie West. Her dedication to conveying the strength of spirit and the vigor of the Old West in her artwork serves to preserve and rekindle the romanticism and patriotism that have always helped our nation overcome obstacles and adversity. I can think of no better time to have an artist such as Katie West riding the range for our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 253, on Agreeing to the Journal. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 254, H.R. 4858, To Improve Access to Physicians in Medically Underserved Areas. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 255, H.R. 4679, the Lifetime Consequences for Sex Offenders Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 256, H.R. 4623, the Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 257, H.R. 4846, the Securities and Exchange Commission Authorization Act of 2002. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for the bill H.R. 4858, which will extend and expand the J-1 visa waiver program. This legislation is vital for Maine and other states that have difficulties in finding physicians to practice in rural and underserved areas. Workforce shortages threaten access to care for all our citizens, and rural areas in particular face significant obstacles in attracting healthcare professionals. This legislation extends for an additional two years the successful state J-1 visa waiver program.

The ability for states to sponsor foreign physicians began in 1994. Until this authority expired at the end of May, states were able to sponsor 20 physicians a year, allowing them to remain in practice in underserved areas.

Maine's sponsorship of J-1 waiver applicants began in 1997. The State has used close to the maximum number of slots each year. Recently, the State of Maine responded to growing demand by expanding the scope of the waiver program, allowing specialists to apply for J-1 waivers. Additionally, more areas of the state were deemed eligible for such waivers. Consequently, Maine now maximizes its number of available sponsorships. This bill goes the step further to expand the current number of state waivers from 20 to 30, and therefore greatly enhances the ability of my State and many others to meet future needs in underserved areas.

There is some urgency to this matter, because the Department of Agriculture has suspended its processing of J-1 waiver applications. Therefore, this state waiver ability remains the only route left to ensure these primary and specialty physicians remain in underserved areas.

As a Member of the bipartisan House Rural Health Care Coalition, I've been involved in efforts to maintain the current J-1 visa waiver process. This particular waiver program is not a long-term solution to healthcare workforce shortages, but it is providing valuable resources right now to underserved areas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JERRY MORAN for introducing this legislation, and encourage all my colleagues to support H.R. 4858.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.